

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION**

I, Pierre Hilaire, hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below and that I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention, the specification of which is attached hereto and which has the title:

**VALVED CONNECTOR WITH CLOSURE OPERATED BY AXIAL MOVEMENT OF  
THE VALVE**

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims. I acknowledge a duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As the below named inventor, I hereby appoint James J. Leary, Reg. No. 35,237 and Carol D. Titus, Reg. Number 38,436 as agents, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office associated therewith.

Send correspondence to:  
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**PRIORITY CLAIM UNDER 35 USC 120**

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign patent application(s) listed below:

| COUNTRY | APPLICATION<br>NUMBER | DATE OF<br>FILING    | PRIORITY<br>CLAIMED UNDER<br>35 USC 119 |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|
| EP      | 98402855.5            | November 18,<br>1998 | Yes                                     |

**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001, and that such willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signature of Inventor \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Residence

Post Office Address:

Citizen of:

Pierre Hilaire  
Paris FRANCE  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sole Applicant: Pierre Hilaire  
Title: VALVED CONNECTOR WITH CLOSURE OPERATED BY  
AXIAL MOVEMENT OF THE VALVE  
Docket No.: ART9901

**Small Entity Declaration - Independent Inventor**

I, Pierre Hilaire, hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35 United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to my above-identified invention described in the specification filed herewith.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed - and am under no obligation under any contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license - any rights in the invention to either (a) any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or (b) any concern which would not qualify as either (i) a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or (ii) a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed - and am under no obligation under any contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license - any rights in the invention to any person, concern or organization.

I acknowledge a duty to file, in the above application for patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001, and that such willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Signature:

Date: